

**A KID'S  
WALKING TOUR  
OF  
OLD LYME'S  
HISTORIC DISTRICT**



**A GIRL SCOUT  
GOLD AWARD PROJECT**

**by EMILY C. ZEMBA**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION!

“A WALKING TOUR GUIDE OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT OF OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT” BY JENNIFER PERRY

“LYME AS IT WAS AND IS” BY JAMES ELY HARDING

“OLD LYME, LYME, AND HADLYME” BY KATHRYN BURTON

[www.oldlyme-ct.gov](http://www.oldlyme-ct.gov) (TOWN OF OLD LYME WEBSITE)

[www.arttrail.org](http://www.arttrail.org) (CONNECTICUT IMPRESSIONIST ART TRAIL)

[www.cthistoryonline.org](http://www.cthistoryonline.org) (CONNECTICUT HISTORY ONLINE)

[www.oldlymehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oldlymehistoricalsociety.org)  
(OLD LYME HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

[www.flogris.org](http://www.flogris.org) (FLORENCE GRISWOLD MUSEUM)

We pass these signs and others every day, but do we really know what they mean?

Lyme and Old Lyme are filled with history (and *herstory*) just waiting to be discovered, but in order to find it you have to pay attention to the things around you and always ask questions!

Remember, “you have to know the past to understand the present.” -*Carl Sagan*



I have lived in Old Lyme for most of my life. Through the years I have come to appreciate the historical significance that my town has. There is so much history here, and it seems as if hardly anybody knows about it.

For my Girl Scout Gold Award project, I decided to create a Children’s Walking Tour of the Historic District in my town. I know that there is an adult walking tour of Old Lyme available in our local library, however, I believe that it is important for kids to get to know their area’s history in a fun and educational way.

In summer 2003, I took part in a Girl Scout program called “Freedom’s Rites” in Rochester, New York. On this trip I, along with other girls from across the country, learned about women’s history and the Underground Railroad. This trip opened my eyes to how important it is for kids to know about their history.

The Old Lyme Historical Society and John Stratton were invaluable as advisors on my project. They gave me information about historical resources. I did research online, at the Town Hall, and at the Town Library.

I hope this walking tour will give children living in my town or visiting here the opportunity to really learn about Old Lyme. This is a project that I feel passionate about.



Emily C. Zemba  
February 2006

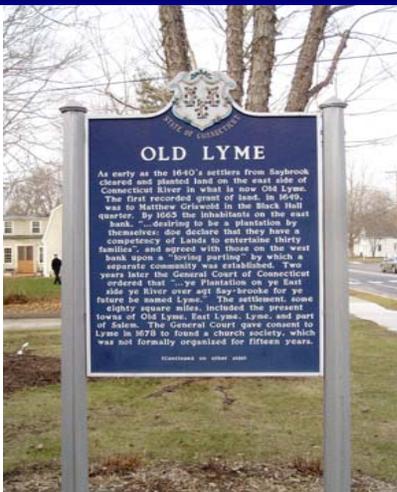
# ~Welcome to Old Lyme!~

Originally part of Saybrook, Old Lyme was set off from Saybrook on February 13th, 1665. This separation became known as the “Loving Parting.”

Old Lyme is part of New London County and occupies 27 square miles of land.

Old Lyme is the namesake for Lyme disease which was first identified here.

Old Lyme is a stop on the Connecticut Impressionist Art Trail.



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People swimming at Swan Beach

This is only a glimpse of Old Lyme History!  
There's so much more to learn !



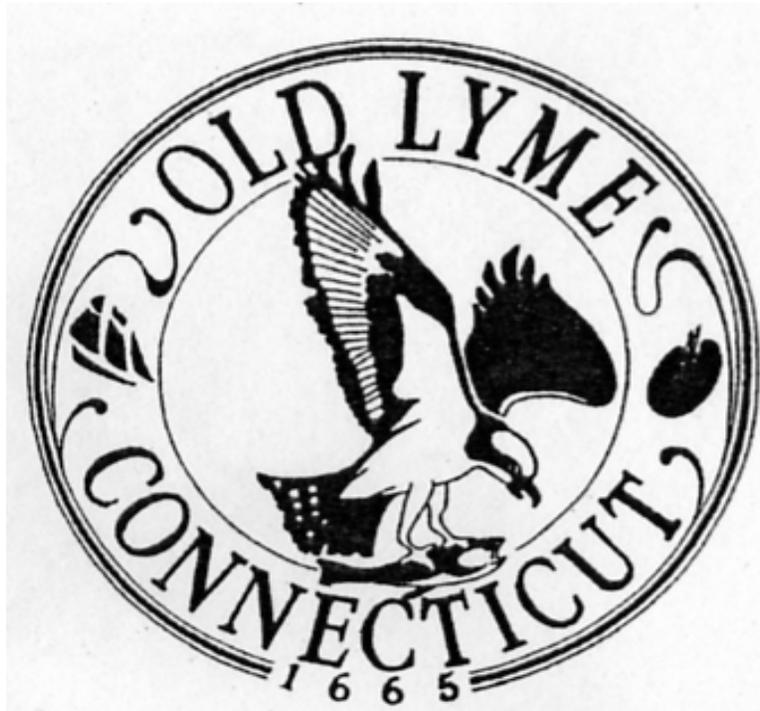
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Sound View Hotel



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Photo CD: 0538 File: Img0041.pod

A family shopping at Sound View



This is the official  
Old Lyme Town Seal!

It was designed by Lyme  
Academy student Catherine Chris-  
tiano in 2000. With the knowledge  
you have of Old Lyme, try de-  
signing your own town seal on a  
separate piece of paper!



West view of Lyme, Con  
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An old sketch of Old Lyme



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Photograph of Lyme Street in the early 1900's.  
Check out the old cars!

# Begin your walking tour of the Old Lyme Historic District at the Congregational Church.



The Congregational Church of Old Lyme is perhaps the most beautiful and frequently painted landmark in town. Often you can find artists setting up their easels on the adjacent town green in order to capture the church on canvas.

This church was built in 1910. It is a duplicate of the previous church, designed by Samuel Belcher, which burned to the ground in 1907.

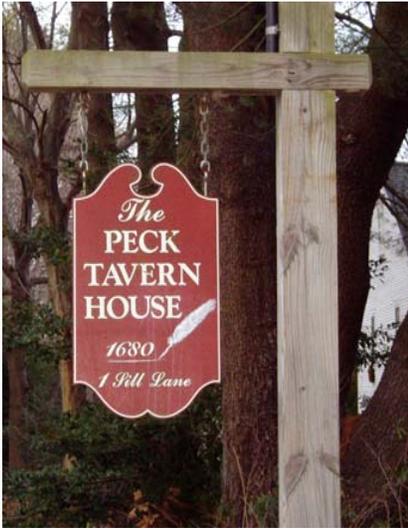
If you look across the street, you will see the McCurdy House at 1 Lyme Street, the official beginning of the Historic District.

## Old Lyme History II

E O T Z M K O W F N R B H U G G R S O H Y T G W T  
 K N J T Y R K F Y A R Y O O V L E J E M C I B Y R  
 H Y P V L X X E B G I L A X N S R F E J C F W Y C  
 H M T L Z T Z B X U D W K Z W L Q D L B S I B K N  
 N P P Q E K Q Y T U D O W Z Q O A W V P H J F C F  
 U Q C P P I M C C K C O A C V C O J F Z X B Q N D  
 D I X X F C N K K O O R B Y A S A D Q Y L Q F J V  
 P S Z K E S R A T Q O I M U B I H S H A I U G Z I  
 P U Z R O I A A I M C T J W R C J H G W U O V W W  
 M M F R V V V O Z R I F T P J V Y O H T M Y Q S Y  
 T M C E F E R B Y X F U B Z V S H R R C D N S D V  
 J E R E R U G Y Y F S R U X A E M E E Q J C Q K Z  
 S R R N S E J Z X T F X C F U M O L A B U D V E Z  
 H K O N S O L U E A Z F D S F Y T I W Q N Z C L R  
 C L N I O W R A Y T Q L E P V L L N V K B W L A E  
 Z Z G F C I G D X R V I A I G T T E T K J X I P D  
 Y Q V H B T G S R G W V U E B L O L S N T Y Q B Z  
 M C C U R D Y S L V M A F S S T V E Q A N E M G J  
 S Y U F V P Z N Q F H I J D P N R A H I S K J R S  
 F W T Y O H K N J F Y K Q Y L C W J R G J Y X X K  
 W F A M Y Q E A K X M V B I L M Q O E R M U Q M W  
 L I E U T E N A N T R I V E R Y J X T O Y C F Y J  
 E A N X C A N F X V S Z M O G L J O T E V S Y F M  
 V X Z T N P W O L L I S C Z O A I M L G H Y Y O Q  
 Y Z S A S I Y N V Y G M R R O I U Q Z F U W D Q J

ACADEMY  
 BOXWOOD  
 DUCKRIVER  
 ENPLEINAIR  
 GEORGIAN  
 LIEUTENANT RIVER  
 LYME  
 MCCURDY

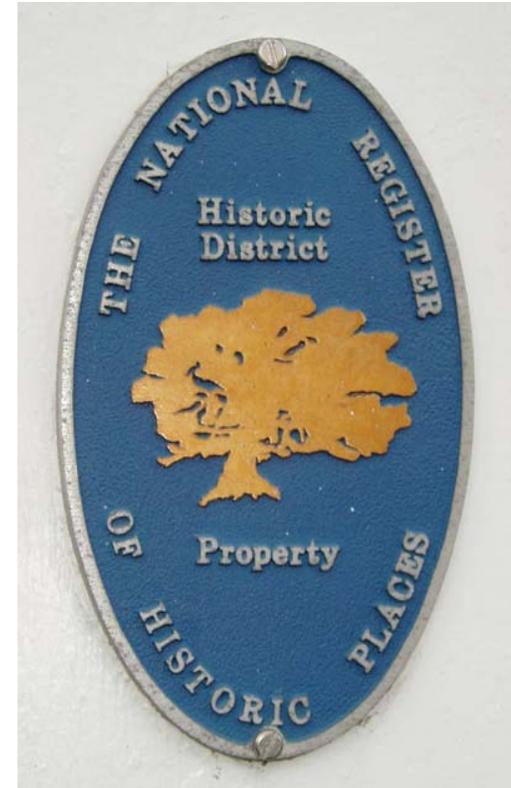
ROSE  
 SAYBROOK  
 SHORELINE  
 SILL  
 SUMMER  
 TAVERN  
 TOWNSEAL



Any house within the Historic District may display one of these plaques:

The Peck Tavern dates back as far as the 1600's!

It is the official end of the Old Lyme Historic District.



*See how many you can count on Lyme Street!*





**Guess how many different things  
this building has been!?**

This large brick building was built in 1842.

In 1890 it became a boarding school for girls.

After that it was turned into a hotel.

In 1900 Florence Griswold turned it into a boarding house for painters.

In 1958 the building became Boxwood Apartments.

And finally in 1985 the apartments were changed into condominiums, and it has remained that way ever since!

*If you ever bought the building,  
what would you use it for?*

**For Sale**



## Miss Florence and The Artist Colony

Miss Florence Griswold was born on Christmas Day in 1850. Her father was a ship captain. Florence was the youngest of four. She received music lessons and was an accomplished equestrian.

When she was 28 years old, she opened the Griswold Home School for Girls with her mother and sisters. The school offered lessons in French, art and music. Her sister, Louise Griswold, played the organ for the Congregational church for 40 years.

In 1899, Miss Florence started renting rooms in her house to visiting artists. Some of the artists who stayed here were Childe Hassam, Willard Metcalf, Henry Ward Ranger and Harry Hoffman. These artists helped begin a well known Impressionist art colony right in the center of Old Lyme. Ellen Axson Wilson, Woodrow Wilson's first wife, came here to study art and became life-long friends with Miss Florence.

Miss Florence gave land to people who started the Lyme Art Association and she was their first manager. She was a founding member of the Old Lyme Fire Department and lived an active life. She died in 1937 surrounded by her beloved cats and friends. In 1947, the Florence Griswold Museum opened its doors.

# History Mystery

?

## The Unsolved Pickle Murder of Boxwood Mansion

?

One chilly Christmas Eve in 1943, the caretaker of the Richard Sill Griswold House was the victim of a very unusual crime. The man was shot, stabbed, and hit over the head with a jar of *pickled beets*!

His girlfriend was arrested as a suspect, but was never charged. No other suspects were found.

Authorities were baffled by the nature of this crime. Why Christmas Eve? Why pickled beets? Could there have been more than one killer?

Today the murder still remains unsolved....Can you figure it out?



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Photo ID: 0636 File: Im-g0040.ppt



“In her delicate and high-bred way, Miss Florence had her part in fostering an authentic American art.”  
*The New York Times*

## Old Lyme History

V R V N B J V P O X M T N L E I N V L L O Y O P J  
 E E H L Z Y D R G U S O A N Z R V H O Y E I D R I  
 Z K U A R E U Q E I E N U Z H R U N A G R Y G M M  
 L R V I R W V S L W D O D O G C G T P E P R P Q P  
 D A X E B W U A B M S G K C L I C G L S B O Y T I  
 J M U D T M R L A E R D V I S Y A M X U B T I U G  
 E E S V A U S R B B A H C L S O W P T A C S B O O  
 X L B P T G K M M P P C A O C Q H L U S V I Y I N  
 P I D A K N X N O D A N H N T H U Y N C G H A H C  
 P M N L B F J U A N D A F V Y L H W E A E U A U Y  
 J Z A G Q W T I B S X U Y I A Y Y Y J N V P X Z Q  
 C R T C K Y T B O Y C R N A O J D D L C B J B R K  
 S I E G B T W U P X N U B C P P K H R N K F N M F  
 W H H D S K N Z M P D O W T B C E L L T X P K W Y  
 N Y E V P D J E Y C N X L D A O R L I A R H O S T  
 Q C R R K O F X Z Y M W D O U J E R A K H C S O G  
 T S I N O I S S E R P M I B C R O G E R S L A K E  
 Q Y T W Z V R Y H Z V O C B N T M B T G E M F D E  
 Y M A G C L L J W B G L R O Y X R N J I M X C R C  
 O B G J T M Y I Y G G C U D L L J A V V E Q U B J  
 Y T E S W Y D Q F A D I P T H O Z E E O P A P V I  
 M Q X R V N S I S H Q A X Z P S N G Z M Y E T D V  
 P J W F A O C I P M S M B J H H P I J T Y T T J T  
 D T G X O Z I O E U C N L O F J V V A M T L M W O  
 Z K N Q B S C H O O L T D E R L U I S L W A J V E

**BEACH**  
**COLONIAL**  
**CULTURE**  
**HERITAGE**  
**HISTORY**  
**IMPRESSIONIST**  
**LANDMARK**  
**LONG ISLAND SOUND**

**LYME ART COLONY**  
**MILE MARKER**  
**MUSEUM**  
**NATURALIST**  
**RAILROAD**  
**ROGERS LAKE**  
**SCHOOL**

## The Florence Griswold Museum



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The Florence Griswold House was designed by Samuel Belcher in 1817 (can you remember what other two buildings he designed on this tour?).

The house was own by the Griswolds from 1840 to 1937.

In 1900 the house was turned into a boarding house for painters!



Today the house is a museum so the public can get a glimpse of Miss Florence's life.

# The Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts



This building began as the John Sill House, designed by Samuel Belcher in 1817. The carpenters who worked on this building were actually boatbuilders!

The Academy was founded in 1976 by Elisabeth Gordon Chandler and other art lovers.

It was envisioned as a place that would “open the eyes of students.”

Abraham Lincoln once said, “*I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives.*”

It is very important to show pride in your country and even your own small community. It’s easy to be proud of a place like Old Lyme because there is so much history to be found here!

That quote by Abraham Lincoln can be found on Lyme Street in a very interesting place. See if you can find it!  
For a clue think of ways you can demonstrate pride for your community!



(Answer on next page)

Did you find it!?



See if you can match this magnificent gate with the building it belongs to!

Why do you think a trash can is an appropriate place to put this quote?



Find these on Lyme Street!  
Look carefully they could be  
right in front of your eyes...



## Christ The King Church

This church has  
had a very rich  
history.



In 1843 this pretty church was built by the  
Baptists.

In 1923 the Baptists sold it to the  
Episcopalians.

Finally in 1927 the Episcopalians sold it to  
the Catholics for only *1 dollar!*

As of 2006 this Church is up for sale again!  
What's next?

See if you can find this interesting landmark on Lyme Street!



This strange looking pole is sort of an old fashioned parking space. It was used for people to tie up their horses and carriages while they ran errands.

What might someone from the future think this was if they saw it here?

This Barber Shop is fashioned like the old barber shops from long ago!



This red, white, and blue pole may seem simply patriotic but in reality it symbolizes something quite different.

Barber poles date as far back as the middle ages, when barbers doubled as surgeons and dentists too! The poles used to be colored only red and white to represent blood and bandages. A red and white pole was an advertisement for potential patients.

The blue stripe was added to the design around the turn of the century as a patriotic gesture.

What do you think? Would you want a surgeon cutting your hair?



## Who are all these people!?

There have been many famous people connected with Old Lyme, CT.  
Here are some of them:

**Elizabeth Tashjian:** “The Nut Lady!” No, she wasn’t nuts—but she did collect them! She put together a nut museum in her Old Lyme home. She was so well known that she even appeared on the Johnny Carson Show!

**Ella Grasso:** She was once the governor of Connecticut, and the first female ever to be elected governor in the United States! She spent three summers in her early adulthood in Old Lyme running the New Colony Movie Theatre on Long Island Sound!

**Elsie Ferguson:** A famous Broadway silent film star from the early 1900’s who was once a resident of Old Lyme.

**Morrison Remick Waite:** Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1874 to 1888. He was born in Lyme!

**Roger Tory Peterson:** A famous naturalist, educator, writer, and artist who wrote many volumes of the Peterson Field Guides. He lived in Old Lyme for much of his life and died here in 1996.

**Robert Ballard:** This man is a great oceanographer who is most well known for his discoveries of the Titanic and the Bismarck. He lives in Lyme!

## The Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library

This library was established as a free public library in 1897!

The library stands on the original site of the Joseph Lord House which existed in the early 1700’s.

The library was originally organized by the Ladies’ Library Association. Their funds were then merged with the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Trust to create the library association that exists today.

There was a major expansion of the library in 1995 which nearly doubled the size of this wonderful resource.

If you are interested in more local history, this is the place to go!





## Famous People of Old Lyme

E L I Z A B E T H T A S H J I A N H I V V B P S E  
 Q E X S C T A F O Z Q Q U A N E N S W B O V N E L  
 I Q T D P V W O C B C F J S Y M O C P M P O F Y L  
 I F U I R E L D N A H D I V A D K T N P S G L O E  
 U X D N A I O Q F E N W J T K V F R N R K B A N N  
 W C O D G W J D T L Y U I U N R S B E O Y A C N A  
 K E B M S U K V L V O L B N Q C E T U S F G T I X  
 R E L D N A H C N O D R O G H T E B A S I L E F S  
 C I C X L Y M H I A W S E E B P Y Q V A W O M F O  
 H E M I O Z R U B M U S N N Y U D U U R C P D I N  
 I P Y D R K P R E G E R I R C Z H I B G F U R R W  
 L O K L A E O Y R L Y R O R F E H Y W A T Q A G I  
 D U Y B J W N E D W B T N R G Q G M K L F D L E L  
 E A D H N H F N A J R E R O E W N R J L D T L B S  
 H E L R W E T R A E H X L D S O E N I E N P I E O  
 A J R K I B D W G U P R L C L I V H F S I J W O N  
 S L L S Y R B O A B L H R X H O R K T V W X I H G  
 S Z L R A Q R K J E M H W O T E L R T T Y O S P K  
 A E S N C T H I G A Z Y O H U C R O O F A R L N F  
 M S G K C I W D A H C M A I L L I W V M H M P D W  
 W E B Z S J W O O D R O W W I L S O N N T K V A Z  
 R M I Q Y L D H E R Z E G K B O T C R S G Z A A V  
 Z D O Q Q E R V P B C R B X Y Z S O K R T H E V D  
 U R P K O A U F H S K P S C P F O N R B W K T B N  
 S C I Y U F N E B W G B M P B V X H J X S A A V W

The Memorial Town Hall was erected in 1920.

It cost a total of \$40,000 to build!

The building is a memorial to the Old Lyme residents who served their country in a time of war.

Inside the building there are plaques with many names on them to pay respect to those who have served their country from Old Lyme. See if you can find any familiar names!

CHILDE HASSAM  
 DAVID HANDLER  
 ELISABETH GORDON CHANDLER  
 ELIZABETH TASHJIAN  
 ELLA GRASSO  
 ELLEN AXSON WILSON  
 ELSIE FERGUSON  
 FLORENCE GRISWOLD  
 HENRY WARD RANGER  
 LUANNE RICE

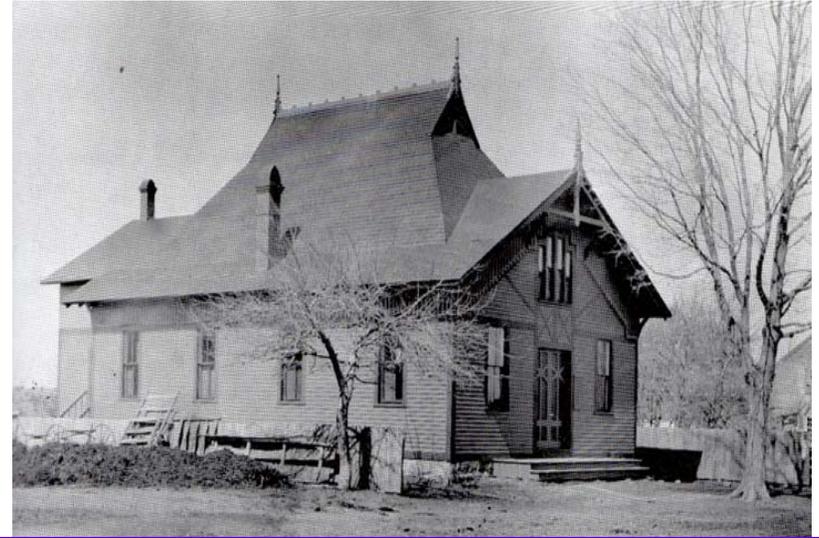
MATILDA BROWN  
 MATTHEW GRISWOLD  
 MORRISON REMICK WAITE  
 PHOEBE GRIFFIN NOYES  
 ROGER TORY PETERSON  
 SAMUEL BELCHER  
 WILLARD METCALF  
 WILLIAM CHADWICK  
 WOODROW WILSON

## The Center School

The Center School was built in 1934.

Local craftsmen were paid only 40 cents an hour!

This elementary school was built on the same spot as the first primary school, built in 1895!!



This is the original design of the town hall. The building looked more like those found in Switzerland or Scandinavia than buildings in early America.

Compare this town hall to our current town hall. Which one do you like better? Why?

What do you think our town hall should look like 100 years from now? Design your own “town hall of the future” on a separate piece of paper!





## Justin Smith House



The Justin Smith House, next to the Town Hall, dates back to the early 1700's. There have been many renovations over the years. Today, the house looks like it did through the early 1900's.

T or F



**True or False:** There was once a railroad station in Old Lyme.

(true! The railroad station was located near Sound View, pictured below)

**True or False:** It used to be illegal in Old Lyme to walk around the beach without a covering over your bathing suit.

(true! In 1920 it was declared a misdemeanor punishable by a fine or jail sentence for anyone over the age of twelve to appear in public in a one piece bathing suit without an overskirt reaching down to their knees!)

**True or False:** Old Lymers used to go to the Sound View Casino to gamble their money away!

(true and false! There was a Sound View Casino in Old Lyme during the 1930's, but a casino wasn't a place to gamble. In the 30's a casino was just a place to hold dances and offer entertainment!)



Old Lyme  
Railroad Station

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